



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS CONTINUES ROUTE 2 CLOSURE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - A 10 - mile stretch of Highway 2 in Los Angeles County from Grassy Hollow Visitors Center to Islip Saddle will remain closed for public safety until work is done to repair the highway. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) officials have determined that winter storms have caused extensive damage, and estimate that \$ 4 million in repairs will be needed to restore the highway to the condition it was before the storms.

Caltrans assessment teams observed more than 20 avalanches of rocks, snow and dirt covering the roadway. Also, slopes above and beneath the highway are eroded; guardrail is broken away; drainage pipes are clogged with debris; and large boulders and broken tree limbs are blocking access. Pedestrians and bicyclists are cautioned to stay out of the closed area.

Historically, Caltrans has closed this stretch of highway every winter to safeguard motorists and pedestrians from the hazards created by the storms. Once the storms were over, customarily Caltrans Maintenance crews would assess damage and complete road repairs in time to open the road to the public for the Memorial Weekend. But the extent of damage this year has changed things.

Officials from the Federal Highway Administration as well as a Caltrans geologist will perform additional site reviews in the next few days. Once assessments are complete and a contractor has been identified, Caltrans estimates a minimum of two months' work to clear debris and to restore the highway.

Scenic Route 2, known as Angeles Crest Highway, is noted for its hiking trails, including a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that runs through it, and for the access the highway provides to motorcyclists, skiers, snow boarders, campers, rock climbers and explorers. Caltrans thanks the public for their patience and cooperation. Updates will follow.

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